

## Upper Arkansas Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

1:00 PM (CST), Thursday February 25, 2021

GoToMeeting Conference Call

### Members in Attendance:

Name	City	Category	Term	Present
Kyle Nelson (Chair)	Holcomb, KS	Industry/Commerce (cc)	2023	No
Joe Jury (Vice-Chair)	Ingalls, KS	Agriculture (cc)	2023	Yes
Kyle Averhoff	Garden City, KS	Dairy	2021	Yes
Hugh Brownlee	Syracuse, KS	At Large Public (cc)	2021	No
Roy Dixon	Garden City, KS	Agriculture Industry	2021	Yes
Titus Jaeger	Lakin, KS	Groundwater Irrigation	2023	Yes
Fred Jones	Garden City, KS	Public Water Supply (cc)	2021	Yes
Monte Morgan	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 3	2021	No
Bill Simshauser	Lakin, KS	Conservation/Environment (cc)	2021	Yes
Hal Scheuerman	Deerfield, KS	Surface Water Irrigation	2021	No
Ray Slattery	Dodge City, KS	Public Water Supply 2	2023	Yes
Brant Peterson	Johnson, KS	Groundwater Management	2023	Yes
Jason Shamburg	Deerfield, KS	At Large Public 2	2023	No

### Others in attendance:

Name	Agency
Keadron Pearson	KWO
Connie Owen	KWO
Kirk Tjelmeland	KWO
Matt Unruh	KWO
Lauren Koons	KWO
Sara Maquire	KWO
Kevin Salter	KDA-DWR
Mike Meyer	KDA-DWR
Alexandra Torrance	KDA-DWR
Randy Hayzlett	KWA Member
Mark Rude	GMD3
Jason Norquest	GMD3
Chris Law	GMD3

- Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by RAC Vice-Chair Joe Jury. All present provided self-introductions.
- Review of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes requested by the RAC members.
- Review of November 2020 Meeting Notes:** The meeting notes were reviewed. There were no changes requested by the RAC members.

**Membership:** Kyle Nelson (Chair), Holcomb, KS; Joe Jury (Vice-Chair), Ingalls, KS; Kyle Averhoff; Garden City, KS; Hugh Brownlee, Syracuse, KS; Roy Dixon, Garden City, KS; Titus Jaeger, Lakin, KS; Fred Jones, Garden City, KS; Monte Morgan, Deerfield, KS; Bill Simshauser, Lakin, KS; Hal Scheuerman, Deerfield, KS; Ray Slattery, Dodge City, KS; Brant Peterson, Johnson, KS; Jason Shamburg, Deerfield, KS  
**KWO Planners:** Keadron Pearson, 620-765-7489, [keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov](mailto:keadron.pearson@kwo.ks.gov)

#### 4. Updates

- a. **Kansas Water Authority (KWA):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) informed the RAC of recent updates that had occurred to the KWA.
- b. **Kansas Water Officer (KWO):** Keadron Pearson (KWO) gave an update on personnel and agency changes that had occurred since the last RAC meeting.
- c. **Legislative:** Matt Unruh (KWO) gave an overview on the House Committee on Water. He also provided an update on what has been occurring with the State Water Plan Budget.

#### 5. Regional Activities

- a. **Kansas Water Plan Update:** Keadron Pearson (KWO) shared with the RAC the progress that there had been on the Kansas Water Plan update. The group was shown where they could find the draft sections of the Water Plan that had been presented to the KWA and other pertinent information on the KWO web page.
- b. **Goals & Actions Plan Discussion:** RAC members discussed ways to start carrying out their Goals and Actions Plan and initial steps that can be taken. They also talked about information that would be helpful to have presented to the committee at future meetings. It was requested to have Kevin Salter (KDA-DWR) present on the background of the Colorado proposed multi-user account pilot project in John Martin Reservoir. Members also requested to have Brownie Wilson (KGS) provide an update on the depletion of the aquifer within the Upper Arkansas Region. The committee discussed ways to help educate younger generations on water issues and the importance of having a continuing education for all age groups. It was the consensus of the group to hold off on any further planning efforts until the Goals & Actions Plan had been approved.
- c. **Membership & Future Meetings:** Keadron Pearson (KWO) informed the RAC of members whose terms are up for renewal this year and that they will be receiving further information in the coming months on this. It was requested that Keadron send out a doodle poll to set the next meeting date during the first two weeks of April.

#### 6. Other Business

##### a. Agency Reports:

- i. Mike Meyer KDA-DWR – Mike reported that March 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline to submit annual water reports. Reminded those they have not done so, to get their reports in soon. Let the group know that the KGS well measurement reports are back and that the overall decline is about 1.3ft in the region.
- ii. Mark Rude GMD3 – Mark reminded everyone of the GMD3 Annual meeting that will be taking place on March 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be having board member elections during the meeting and discussing regional activities, budget, and looking over the management plan. He reported to the group that the legislative report on the Western Water Conservation Fund had been submitted. Lastly, he mentioned that there would not be a virtual option to attend the upcoming GMD3 Annual Meeting.
- iii. Randy Hayzlett KWA – Randy gave an update on how the KWA budget recommendation process goes. He also reported on the activities of the most recent ARCA meeting.
- iv. Kevin Salter KDA-DWR – Kevin reported on the water supply and run off within the Arkansas River Basin.

##### b. Public Comments: None

- c. **Future Agenda Items from RAC Members:** It was requested that the next meeting be in early April
- d. **RAC Messages to the KWA:** None
- e. **Future Meetings:**
  - i. Ogallala Aquifer Summit: February 24-25
  - ii. GMD3 Annual Meeting: March 10, Ulysses, KS
  - iii. Governor's Water Conference: November 16-18

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.**

## Upper Arkansas RAC- Draft Revised Action Plan (11/19/2020)

**Goal #1:** Establish a diversified, usable water supply by 2030, to motivate a vibrant growing economy with conservation-minded stewardship focused on increasing the life of the aquifer, reestablishing streamflow in the Arkansas River, and accelerating recharge; benefiting economic prosperity, wildlife, habitat, recreation, and all water users while protecting property rights and providing safe drinking water.

### Action Steps:

- 1) Develop alternative sources of supply by 2030
  - a) Collaborate and coordinate with local shareholders, stakeholders, policymakers, organizations, agencies, (i.e. GMD3, KWO, KDA, KDHE, Kansas Dept. of Commerce, and other State agencies) surrounding States, and federal agencies and authorities.
  - b) Research, study, and initiate any changes necessary to current or new statutes, to develop and perfect new or existing water rights to serve as alternative sources of supply.
  - c) Explore multi-state support for an interstate water transfer system.
  - d) Evaluate potential intrastate water transfers
  - e) Initiate and participate in research to determine the value an alternative source of supply would generate directly and indirectly for local, regional, state, & federal areas and agencies.
  - f) Develop a fact-based education initiative to inform Kansans and our neighbors how we can plan and prepare for tomorrows challenges related to the shortages or excess of water for everyone.
  - g) Support alternative sources of supply.
  - h) These may include greater streamflow of interstate rivers or engineered solutions such as an aqueduct or pipelines from alternate sources of supply.
- 2) Educate all water users on the importance of water saving, increased water use efficiencies, and the supporting data (SWLs, SWL change rates, conservation targets, etc.).
  - a) Support the educational efforts through the Kansas Runs on Water Campaign.
  - b) Support educational activities through the Conservation Districts such as (The Ark Water River Festival, Earth Day at The Zoo, Safety Days, Poster contests at the schools, The Bottom Line Conference, and other informational meetings or conferences) put on by the Conservation Districts.
  - c) The Water Authority supports these activities by funding the budget line item, Aid to Conservation Districts, to the full amount mandated by the Kansas Water Plan Funding.
  - d) Support educational meetings hosted by the K-State Extension, the GMD3, and other agencies or organizations.
  - e) Encourage the Kansas Water Authority's continued support and funding for the irrigation technology farms.
  - f) Formalize a list to add to a calendar on the Water Authority, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, GMD3, and K-State Extension web sites to help inform landowners, producers, and the general public of events throughout the year.
- 3) Promote irrigation conservation
  - a) Support voluntary decreased water consumption in the Upper Arkansas RAC geographic area per the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) recommendations.
  - b) Encourage adoption of water conservation programs such as LEMA's and WCA's.
  - c) Support producer incentives through the KDA-DOC, KDHE, KDA-DWR, and other state agencies to reduce usage through proven technologies and best management practices.
    - i) These may include programs such as CREP, Playa Lake restoration, cost-share on reduced irrigation systems, cost-share on soil moisture probes, and other technologies that reduce water usage.
- 4) Promote conservation of municipal and industrial water use through incentives and education.
- 5) Recognizing distinct differences between domestic, irrigation, stockwater, municipal, industrial, and other types of beneficial use.